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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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Dutch Say a Louder 'No' - Milliyet
French Kill, Dutch Bury EU Constitution - Vatan
France to Demand Privileged Partnership for Turkey - Sabah
Pakistan Gives Turkey Support on Cyprus - Aksam
Turkey, Pakistan to Increase Military Cooperation - Hurriyet
Brussels to Hold International Iraq Conference June 22 -
Milliyet
Assassination Attempt Against Barzani - Vatan
Nixon Knew Who 'Deep Throat' Was - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

US Delegation: Sanctions on North Cyprus Must be Removed -
Cumhuriyet
Whitfield: Hope Papadapoulos Got Our Message - Yeni Safak
Dutch Overwhelmingly Reject EU Constitution - Radikal
Chirac Says France Will Stay in EU Despite 'Non' - Zaman
Syrian Kurds Preparing for Mass Rally - Yeni Safak
Rafsanjani Pledges to Open Iran to World - Yeni Safak
Wolfowitz Takes World Bank Helm - Yeni Safak
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Suicide Bomb Attack at Kandahar Mosque Kills 20 - Cumhuriyet
Bishkek in Turmoil Again - Radikal
Detainee Testimonies Verify Torture at Gitmo - Yeni Safak
CIA Uses Civilian Planes for Covert Operations - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

US Delegations Continue Meetings in Turkey, North Cyprus: A delegation led by Congressman Ed Whitfield, co-chairman of the Turkey Caucus in the US House of Representatives, paid a visit to Turkey's influential business organization, The Union of Chambers (TOBB), in Ankara on Wednesday. Whitfield told the press after meeting with TOBB Chairman Rifat Hisarciklioglu that the fourth Congressional study group has been formed, adding that the fact that this group focuses on Turkey shows the importance given to Turkey by the US Administration. He noted that the US delegation's visit to northern Cyprus had been a 'symbolic statement' to help lift the international isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. Whitfield added that his delegation will propose some new ideas to the American administration on that issue when it returns to Washington. Specifically, Whitfield said the group would propose direct flights between Ercan airport and Washington by Turkish Cypriot Airlines. Whitfield said that Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's visit to the US next week will contribute to further cooperation in US-Turkish relations: 'There may be differences of opinion between friends, but mutual visits can help overcome these differences.' TOBB Chairman Hisarciklioglu praised the Americans for entering Turkish Cyprus directly from Turkey: 'This visit will help in ending the unfair isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, and will contribute to the integration of northern Cyprus with the rest of the world.' Another US Congressional delegation crossed over into the 'TRNC' from the southern part of the island, papers report. The head of that delegation, Congressman Jim Kolbe, said after meeting 'TRNC President' Talat that all Americans are waiting for the day when they will see Cyprus reunited.

Turkish papers report US State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher as 'defending' the US Congressmen's visit to northern Cyprus. Responding to a question, Boucher, a former US ambassador to Cyprus, said there is a 'different' environment in Cyprus now: 'There have been various steps on the part of the US to ensure that the Turkish Cypriots do not feel as isolated as they have in the past.' Boucher said the visit had not been a violation of international law. Boucher described the 'TRNC' and Ankara as the side that sincerely wants a solution to the Cyprus problem.

Johnson: US Visits to Cyprus a First Step for Dialogue: Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, a member of the US delegation that visited north Cyprus, told "Tercuman-HO" that there is no impediment to Americans who want to travel to Turkish Cyprus. Johnson said the US Congressional delegation now had a better grasp on the situation of the Turkish Cypriots. 'We also aim to understand Turkey better,' she noted. Johnson added that visits by US delegations to northern Cyprus and Turkey marked a beginning for opening channels of dialogue. Johnson said she was surprised to see several women lawmakers in the Turkish Cypriot 'parliament,' including 'speaker' Fatma Ekenoglu, the paper reports. 'American women have not had such an opportunity yet,' Johnson said. Johnson, named as one of the 10 most powerful women in the US by "Ebony" magazine in 2001, was first elected to the US House of Representatives in 1991.

Turkish Cypriot Leaders Due in Ankara: Turkish Cypriot leaders - 'President' Talat, 'Prime Minister' Soyer and 'Foreign Minister' Denktas -- are to visit Ankara on Thursday for meetings with PM Erdogan and FM Gul for a final retouching of the Turkish position on Cyprus in advance of Erdogan's upcoming visit to the United States next week. The Turkish Cypriots will return home on June 3 after meeting Parliament Speaker Arinc. Talat said yesterday before arriving in Ankara that the attitude of the Greek Cypriot side is 'far outside the parameters' of the Annan Plan. 'It is uncertain how the Cyprus problem will be resolved,' Talat said.

Erdogan to Visit Sikorsky While in the US: Prime Minister Erdogan will pay a 'surprise' visit to the Sikorsky helicopter plant in Connecticut after meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on June 9, "Sabah" reports.

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The Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation had previously held talks with the Turkish Aerospace Industry (TAI) in a bid to make Turkey its main production center for all models of Black Hawk helicopters, but no progress was made on the project, "Sabah" notes. Erdogan will discuss with Sikorsky the manufacture of helicopters using Turkish parts and technology, according to the report.

Turkey's National Security Policy Document: Turkey's draft 'National Security Policy Document,' which outlines the priorities with regard to threats to Turkey's security, is to be finalized at the National Security Council (NSC) meeting on June 21, papers report. The document describes fundamentalism, separatism, and extreme left-wing activities as the main domestic threats. The 25-page document also delineates unemployment, the uneven distribution of national wealth, and disproportionate development levels between regions in the country as among the primary domestic threats to public order. Cyprus is of 'first-degree importance' to Turkey's security, the document says, and it goes on to list Iraq and Iran as among the risky elements that create uncertainty in Turkey's neighborhood. 'Turkey has to maintain a deterrent military force to preserve the current balances against symmetric threats and defend its national interests,' the document notes. It also regards international terrorism and narcotics and human trafficking as 'asymmetric threats' to Turkey.

US Creates Website to Fight Misinformation: The US State Department has created a webpage for responding to misinformation about American policies and actions with regard to issues such as Iraq and Afghanistan, Turkish papers report. The webpage, posted in English and Arabic, responds to allegations such as those claiming that the US military used non-conventional weapons in Iraq, and that former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri had been killed by Americans, say reports.

Pakistan's Aziz Visits Ankara: Visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said after meeting his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan yesterday that Pakistan is ready to support Turkish efforts to ease the isolation of Turkish Cyprus. During meetings between the delegations, Aziz said Pakistan wanted to purchase electronic warfare products from Turkey, and proposed a joint investment for the production of tanks, armored personnel carriers, and assault boats. Erdogan voiced support for Pakistan's position regarding Kashmir, and urged Aziz to make further efforts to enhance trade ties.

Ankara Expects 'Gestures' From Yerevan: Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Spokesman Namik Tan said at a weekly press briefing on Thursday that an 'evaluation' of Armenian President Robert Kocharian's letter to Prime Minister Erdogan is continuing. Erdogan had earlier proposed to Kocharian the establishment of a joint delegation of Turkish and Armenian historians to examine the incidents of 1915. The Armenian President responded by saying that the commission should have an inter-governmental status. 'Future positive statements and gestures will affect our

assessment of the Kocharian proposal,' Tan said.

TOBB Chairman to Travel to Jerusalem: Rifat Hisarciklioglu, Chairman of Turkey's Union of Chambers (TOBB), will visit Jerusalem June 7 to attend the second round of meetings of a 'dialogue group' made up of Turkish, Israeli, and Palestinian businessmen. He first round of meetings was held in Ankara on April 27. During his two-day stay in Jerusalem, Hisarciklioglu will discuss trilateral business cooperation opportunities and problems in trade between Turkey and Palestine.

Turkish Intelligence Admits to Wiretapping: The Turkish intelligence service (MIT) admitted wiretapping telephone conversations across Turkey for the past two months, but said the measure was necessary to gather information on the activities of the outlawed PKK. A senior police source told the press that the monitoring of civilian communications in Turkey had been continuing for more than a decade. The source noted that the wiretaps had enabled police to prevent a bomb attack in Antalya and to seize explosives in Istanbul, Izmir, and Diyarbakir. Human rights activists, NGOs, and some lawyers strongly criticized the practice, claiming that it was illegal.

Syrian Kurds Prepare for Protest Rallies Over Clergy's Death: Syrian Kurds are preparing to protest against Damascus in mass rallies over allegations that the revered Kurdish clergyman, Muhammad al-Haznawi, was tortured to death by Syrian intelligence, "Yeni Safak" reports from Damascus. Haznawi's son claimed that his father, president of the Islam Center in Syria's mainly Kurdish border town of Kamishli, had been abducted by Syrian government forces during a visit to Damascus in early May.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

The EU Constitution; US-Cyprus; Syria

"An Impact is Most Certain"
Gunduz Aktan commented in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (6/2): "The French 'no' vote on the EU Constitution is a very important development that puts the future of the Union in doubt. Nevertheless, EU institutions will continue to function, as the Nice Treaty remains in effect. So there is no question of a legal or institutional vacuum in the European Union. . On the other hand, the defeat of the EU Constitution by one of the two important founding members certainly pushes the EU toward a crisis it has never seen before. . If these developments lead the UK to decide against holding a referendum, it would create a final blow against the dream of an EU 'superstate.' If and when that happens, the EU will move toward the British model -- in other words, a full commercial integration to be matched by a more limited political and economic integration. Such a development will be a positive factor for Turkey's membership in the medium term."

"Non, Nee, And What Comes After That?"
Sami Kohen opined in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (6/2): "Although, the French 'Non' was sufficient for the EU constitution to be considered invalid, the additional 'Nee' vote in the Netherlands has strengthened the rejection. In a way, the people of France and the Netherlands used this referendum to punish their governments for the economic and social problems they are facing. Increasing nationalist and anti-foreign sentiments in both countries caused the people to reject the EU constitution. These referenda proved that Europeans generally value their national identities and national interests more than they value integration. The European Union's idea of 'being European' doesn't get much support in an atmosphere where nationalism is on the rise. It seems that after the referenda, efforts should be exerted to protect the unity of Europe rather than to protect the constitution."

"The US Has Done What The EU Could Not"
Fikret Bila observed in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (6/2): "The EU has long promised to take steps to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. These pledges include direct flights, direct trade, and financial assistance to northern Cyprus. However, the EU failed to meet any of its promises, and has hesitated to start a real effort in that direction. On the other hand, US Congressmen have made an historic visit to the Turkish side of Cyprus and achieved exactly what the EU has failed to accomplish. The visiting US delegation made some important statements, both in northern Cyprus and after coming to Ankara. They promised to push for additional US measures to break the isolation of Turkish Cypriots, including the possibility flights by Turkish Cypriot Airlines from Ercan directly to Washington. Their statements also strengthened Prime Minister Erdogan's hand on the eve of his trip to Washington. The Americans' 'Cyprus gesture' prior to the Washington visit has given the Turkish side a big boost in morale. Congressman Whitfield's

remarks were supportive enough to help smooth Prime Minister Erdogan's meeting in the White House."

"America's Anger Over Syria Continues"

Semih Idiz wrote in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (6/2):
"Florida Congressman Robert Wexler is one of the leading figures in the Turkish Friendship Group in the US Congress. I ran into him the other night at a reception given by the German Marshall Fund. I asked him what the feeling was in Washington toward Turkey, mentioning that it seemed as if things were getting back to normal. But Wexler doesn't really see it that way. Although he says the disappointment over the March 1 vote has largely been overcome, he added that Turkey's friends in the United States face a `Syria problem.' As I understand it, the Americans view the recent high-profile visits of PM Erdogan and President Sezer to Syria as a kind of `challenge' from Turkey. The effects of this are still being felt in Washington. When I tried to explain the Turkish view that Bashar Assad is trying to change things in a way more favorable to US interests, Wexler would have none of it. He argued that the regime is full of holdovers from Hafez Assad's days, and that it is following the same hard-line policies as it did in the past. `As long as American soldiers are dying in Iraq,' Wexler told me, `ordinary Americans are not going to buy that kind of subtle distinction.' To make a long story short, what the Americans are saying is this: `We are trying to do now what you did with Syria over the PKK issue. But when you encourage Damascus through these kinds of visits, you are bringing that process to a halt. How can you think that there won't be negative fallout from this?' This is enough to show that US-Turkish relations still haven't quite gotten back on track."

EDELMAN